NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

May 10, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 10, 2005, **Kim Robinson**, age 36, of Grantsburg, Illinois, pled guilty to Possession with Intent to Distribute 50 Grams or More of a Mixture and Substance Containing a Detectable Amount of Methamphetamine; and Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with Intent to Distribute 500 Grams or More of a Mixture and Substance Containing a Detectable Amount Methamphetamine in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois. Sentencing has been set for August 11, at 11:00 a.m. Robinson remained on bond pending sentencing and is being supervised by the United States Probation Office at Benton.

The penalties that can be imposed for the possession charge are from 5 years to 40 years, a fine of not more than \$2 million, and a term of supervised release of at least 4 years. The penalties that can be imposed for the conspiracy charge are a term of imprisonment from 10 years to life, a fine of not more than \$4 million, and a term of supervised release of at least 5 years.

According to a stipulation filed in court, the evidence would show that on December 17, 2004, the Illinois State Police and DEA obtained information from United Parcel Service personnel in Williamson County, Illinois, about a suspicious package. A trained, drug sniffing dog was used to verify that the package contained drugs and a Williamson County, Illinois, state search warrant was obtained to open the package. Found inside was 342 grams of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine. The package was addressed to Kim Robinson at her residence located in Johnson County, IL. Arrangements by law enforcement were made to deliver the package and then to search the residence of Kim Robinson after the package was delivered. On December 18, 2004, after the package was signed for and delivered to Kim Robinson's husband, Ranzy Robinson, at their residence, law enforcement officers entered the residence pursuant to an anticipatory search warrant issued by a State Court in Johnson County, Illinois. The package was seized and the Robinsons were arrested. Both were questioned and admitted to receiving methamphetamine and to participating in the distribution of it

between August 2004, and December 18, 2004, from their Johnson County residence. Each admitted separately to receiving packages of methamphetamine on several other occasions during that period. Their distributions involved a total of between 1.5 kilos and 2.2 kilos of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine during that period. Defendant Ranzy Robinson, pled guilty to the same charges on April 1, 2005. His sentencing date is June 30, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. Ranzy Robinson, 36, also from Grantsburg, is in custody pending sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Illinois State Police, the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, the Johnson County State's Attorney and other state and local law enforcement authorities pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael C. Carr.